



**National Park Service**  
**U.S. Department of the Interior**

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## Effigy Mounds News Release

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### **HawkWatch at Effigy Mounds National Monument** **October 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>**

*Celebration of the Annual Fall Hawk Migration on the Mississippi River*

HawkWatch at Effigy Mounds starts on Friday evening, October 5<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.; continues on Saturday, October 6<sup>th</sup> from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.; and on Sunday, October 7<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. HawkWatch is a free, family-oriented event in celebration of the annual fall hawk migration.

This year HawkWatch will feature the art and sport of falconry, beginning with a special Friday evening film at 7:00 p.m. – “Raptor Force.” This film, along with host falconer David Kester and his red-tailed hawk, “Smackers,” will be presented in the visitor center auditorium.

Saturday will begin with an 8:00 a.m. bird hike with Upper Iowa Audubon’s birding expert Dennis Carter, and at 9:00 a.m. will be the video, “Eagle & The Hawk.” HawkWatch will get fully underway at 10:00 a.m. and run until 4:00 p.m. both Saturday and Sunday. There will be a variety of activities for people of all ages. Raptor programs will be presented hourly throughout the weekend. Kay Neuman from SOAR (Save Our Avian Resources) will have a live bird display. There will also be special kid’s activities such as dissecting owl pellets, predator tubes, pastel hawk drawing, face painting; and new this year will be falconry knot bracelets and a sandbox dig for our bird ancestors-the feathered dinosaurs. The children’s programs will run from 10:00 a.m. — 12:00 p.m. and 1:30 p.m. — 3:30 p.m. and will also feature a life size reproduction of an eagle’s nest.

Program highlights held throughout the weekend include falconry programs by Helen Harvey of the Iowa Falconer’s Association, “Hunters of the Sky” with Kay Neumann of SOAR, and legendary presenter Mike Havlik with “Big Owls Hoot, Little Owls Toot!” There will also be opportunities for learning about raptor rehabilitation, the lives and behavior of birds of prey, identification techniques, the art and sport of falconry, and endangered species. Hawks are also brought down from the field research station after being banded; they are released after a brief program and questions from visitors. It’s a wonderful opportunity to see a wild hawk up close.

HawkWatch at Effigy Mounds also operates a count site where IDNR staff, Audubon members, Iowa Nature Mapping staff and volunteers will be identifying and counting wild migrants as they fly overhead. Typically several hundred migrants are counted each day, including sharp-shinned and Cooper’s hawks, red-tailed, red-shouldered and broad-

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winged hawks, peregrine falcons, ospreys, eagles, turkey vultures and others. Spotting scopes will be set up around the area, and there will be people to assist in using them and identifying the hundreds of hawks flying over the park.

HawkWatch is an annual event that takes place at Effigy Mounds National Monument and all activities are located in or around the visitor center. The monument offers a wonderful museum, hiking trails, lookouts over the Mississippi River and, of course, the prehistoric American Indian ceremonial and burial mounds. Come to HawkWatch at Effigy Mounds and enjoy the fall colors and Iowa's most diverse park, and celebrate the hawk migration.

For more information, contact Pam Kester, HawkWatch Coordinator at [kestrel@alpinecom.net](mailto:kestrel@alpinecom.net) or 563-873-1236, or the monument at 563-873-3491, [www.nps.gov/efmo](http://www.nps.gov/efmo). Hawk Watch is an annual program put on by local volunteers and it is a great time for people interested in volunteering to sign up for other events.

HawkWatch is co-sponsored by the Upper Iowa Audubon Society, Effigy Mounds National Monument, Eastern National, the Iowa Department of Natural Resources Wildlife Diversity Program and National Audubon's Upper Mississippi River Campaign. It is powered by the boundless energy of volunteers, and operated on a shoe-string budget. — all of which add up to an event filled with enthusiasm & fun.

The program of events is currently available at Effigy Mounds National Monument and posted on the park website.

Effigy Mounds National Monument visitor center is located in northeastern Iowa, three miles north of Marquette, Iowa and 22 miles south of Waukon, Iowa on Highway 76.